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Television Studio Laboratories and Digital Integrated Remote Production Technology

Activity Overview

This activity was directed toward the partial updating and supplementing of the television studio production laboratory and the digital remote production facility at the Department of Languages and Communications. The activity provided for the immediate and necessary needs of the department's present production laboratories and the creation of new digital production facilities.

Activity Outcome

The television studio production equipment has been upgraded from analog to SDI/HD digital format. The studio was remodeled with newly designed wall to wall sets to cover talk, variety and news formats and equipped with up-to-date technology including prompting, crane and high end pedestal functionality to support student productions. The studio lighting was upgraded from 5 previous soft tungsten fixtures to over thirty multi format fixtures including spot, soft, chroma key, and neon boxes, numerous with arms for easier control. The new professional lighting setup is controlled via a computerized lighting dimmer. The audio infrastructure was upgraded to an all wireless communication environment. The facility now utilizes wireless communications including hand held, lavalier, intercom, and IFB communications. A professional outside news feed service. The audio and video signals of the television station broadcast runs on dedicated, programmable digital servers using Mpeg-2 format and is constantly monitored through a dedicated digital monitoring station placed within the studio's control room. The television station is supported by a state-of-the-art, network based, large storage capacity, news production and editing laboratory. The laboratory runs up-to-date, non-linear, Avid and Adobe applications.

Activity Impact

The activity increased the marketability of communications majors in the marketplace. Several students completed internships and have been employed at major media networks including: ABC, NBC, FOX, MTV, BET, ESPN and cable networks. With the introduction of digital applications, students are now receiving advanced training in cutting edge broadcast software and hardware.

The student enrollment in the communications program approximately doubled to more than 400 majors by the end of this activity. The department's internship program has been strengthened to reach over 35 interns working at the television station per semester while no students interned before the commencement of this activity. The department is now well positioned to offer the campus community with professional media services.